

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 04602 311751Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 /093 W
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R 311150Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5921
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 4602

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MASS, CD
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION

SUMMARY: AS NDJAMENA ENTERS NEW YEARS HOLIDAYS, SEVERAL
IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN REBELLION STILL HANG ON THE
HORIZON. THESE RANGE FROM THE BAD NEWS CATEGORY OF
POSSIBLE TERRORISM IN NDJAMENA TO THE GOOD NEWS CATEGORY
OF THE POSSIBLE RETURN OF PRISONERS TAKEN AT BARDAI AND
PROSPECTS OF SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOME REBEL
LEADERS. END SUMMARY

1. AS A RESULT OF CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE TERRORISM
IN NDJAMENA, AREAS AROUND PRESIDENCY, MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND AIRPORT HAVE BEEN REINFORCED. WALLS WITH FIRING PORTS
ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED RAPIDLY AND SOME GUN EMPLACEMENTS
HAVE BEEN DUG AROUND AIRPORT. FRENCH PILOTS HAVE CONFIRMED
THAT UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT ARE STILL APPEARING FROM TIME
TO TIME ABOVE THE CITY. HOWEVER, NEITHER FRENCH NOR OUR-
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SELVES HAVE ANY HARD INFORMATION ON A DIRECT REBEL THREAT
TO THE CITY.

2. NEARLY ALL OUR CONTACTS REPORT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
REBEL LEADERS, EXCEPT GOUKOUNI, CONTINUE TO GO WELL AND
ANOTHER MEETING IS SCHEDULED IN KHARTOUM IN MID-JANUARY.
THE PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON,

BUT THE PRICE (LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, ETC.) IS STILL BEING HAGGLED OVER. VICE PRESIDENT DJIME HAS BEEN PLAYING KEY ROLE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND IS APPARENTLY MEMBER OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL IN WHOM REBELS PLACE GREATEST TRUST. THIS POPULARITY HAS ENDENDERED INCREASING RESENTMENT OF SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SMC, PARTICULARLY FONMIN KAMOUGUE. THE REALIGNMENT OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WHICH WILL POSSIBLY BE CALLED FOR BY ANY FORMAL DEAL WITH THE REBELS IS GOING TO BE TICKY AND MAY WELL SHATTER UNITY OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

3. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN MADE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE RETURN OF SOME OF THE PRISONERS TAKEN BY THE REBELS AT BARDAI. REPORTEDLY APPROXIMATELY FIFTY ARE TO ARRIVE IN ABECHE ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 10 BY A PLANE UNDER U.N. AUSPICES.

4. COMMENT: CHAD FACES A 1978 IN WHICH REBELLION WILL POSSIBLY BECOME MORE POLARIZED WITH SOME REBELS RECONCILED TO GOVERNMENT BUT MAJORITY FALLING MORE CLOSELY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REBEL-BACKED GOUKOUNI FACTION, THE INFIGHTING FOR CONTROL OF REBEL GROUPS AND FOR PRESTIGE SHOULD INCREASE THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS. IN ADDITION INCREASED INTERNAL DISSENTION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS PROBABLE. BRADFORD
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